

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE**

**DOCKET NO. 2022-2-E ORDER NO. 2021-154-H**

**DECEMBER 14, 2021**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler**

**DOCKET DESCRIPTION:**

**Annual Review of Base Rates for Fuel Costs for Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated (For Potential Increase or Decrease in Fuel Adjustment)**

**MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:**

**Petition to Intervene of South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (“CCL”) and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (“SACE”) (collectively, “Petitioners”)**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER’S ACTION:**

**This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of CCL and SACE. The Petition is timely filed, and no objections to the interventions have been filed.**

**The Commission opened this proceeding pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-27-865, which establishes the procedure for annual hearings for the Commission and all interested parties to review the fuel purchasing practices and policies of Dominion Energy South Carolina (“DESC” or “Company”) and for the Commission and Company to make adjustments as necessary.**

**CCL is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina whose stated mission is to protect the natural environment of the South Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life in its communities by working with individuals, businesses, and government to ensure balanced solutions. CCL and its members state their support for the development of energy policy that is in the public interest of South Carolinians. CCL asserts that it has members in South Carolina who receive electricity service from DESC and who will be directly impacted by the decisions made in this proceeding regarding DESC’s ability to recover fuel costs and the incremental and avoided costs of DER programs.**

**SACE is a nonprofit organization whose stated mission is to promote responsible and equitable energy choices to ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. SACE and its members are interested in promoting greater reliance on clean energy resources to meet the South’s energy needs. SACE has members in South Carolina who receive electricity service from DESC and who will be directly impacted by the**

**decisions made in this proceeding regarding DESC's ability to recover fuel costs and the incremental and avoided costs of DER programs.**

**After it has been determined that the Petition has been timely filed, the next question for the Commission is to determine whether or not the petitioning party or parties have clear factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires that parties filing a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the SC Public Service Commission must:**

**set forth clearly and concisely:**

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**
- (c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

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Petitioners state that they and their members have direct and substantial interests that will be impacted by the Commission's review and approval of DESC's 2022 fuel rider. Petitioners assert that they seek to ensure that DESC's fuel purchasing practices and policies are just and reasonable, result in the lowest reasonable costs to customers, and take into account the volatility and risks associated with natural gas prior to passing fuel costs to customers. Petitioners also seek to ensure a full and proper valuation of NEM generation and appropriate cost recovery consistent with Order Nos. 2015-194 and 2021-569, that will accurately reflect and support an effective and diversified portfolio of distributed energy resources and lead to cleaner, safer, and healthier communities for all South Carolinians. Petitioners state that their support for these policies and involvement in this proceeding will promote their members' interests as well as the broader public interest.**

**From these facts, this Hearing Officer holds that CCL and SACE have successfully satisfied the three criteria for intervention stated in the Regulation. The Petitioners interest in these matters can clearly be discerned, as can the grounds for the intervention, and their position in both Dockets.**

**Further, the Petition to Intervene was timely filed and there are no objections to the interventions. Accordingly, the Petitions to Intervene of CCL and SACE are hereby granted in both Dockets. This ends the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.**